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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A work fixing device comprising:

a plurality of plates, ~~on each plate of said plurality of plates~~ a work with a ferromagnetic portion being mounted on each plate of said plurality of plates;

a transporter for endlessly connecting and circulating said plurality of plates;

at least one machining head provided above said transporter;

a magnet fixed to said transporter, said magnet fixing the work, ~~which is to said plate~~ transported by the transporter, ~~through~~ by attracting the work by its magnetic force on each plate of said plurality of plates within a working range of said machining head; and

a nonmagnetic clearance holder for separating the magnet and the work from each other at a predetermined interval;

wherein the work is removed from said plate at a removal area where said magnetic force by said magnet will not sufficiently attract said work.

2. (original) The work fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plurality of plates are nonmagnetic, and said clearance holder is said plurality of plates themselves.

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3. (original) The work fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said clearance holder includes a clearance between each plate of said plurality of plates and the magnet.

4. (original) The work fixing device as claimed in claim 3, wherein a slider is inserted between each plate of said plurality of plates and the magnet.

5. (original) A work fixing device comprising:

plurality of plates, on each plate of said plurality of plates a work with a ferromagnetic portion being mounted, each plate of said plurality of plates having a nonmagnetic portion and magnetic portions at both ends of the nonmagnetic portion;

a transporter for endlessly connecting and circulating said plurality of plates;

a magnet fixed to said transporter, said magnet fixing the work, which is transported by the transporter, through magnetic force on each plate of said plurality of plates; and

a nonmagnetic clearance holder for separating the magnet and the work from each other at a predetermined interval.

6. (original) The work fixing device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said magnet is accommodated in a C-shaped base having an opening at a position opposite to the nonmagnetic portion of each plate of said plurality of plates, and said nonmagnetic clearance holder includes a clearance between the C-shaped base and each plate of said plurality of plates.

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7. (original) The work fixing device as claimed in claim 6, wherein a slider is inserted between each plate of said plurality of plates and the magnet.

8. (original) The work fixing device as claimed in claim 6, wherein in said C-shaped base including the opening is mounted a nonmagnetic magnet fixing member for fixing the magnet in the C-shaped base.

9. (original) The work fixing device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said nonmagnetic portion of each plate of said plurality of plates is a space.

10. (original) The work fixing device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said magnet is a permanent magnet.